THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Himachal Govt. is taking the initiative to take up construction of this line through a Satluj Valley Railway Corporation with equity participation by them, the Cement Industry and IRCON on behalf of the Railways. The modalities of setting up the Corporation are being settled by the Himachal Pradesh Govt.

Rail Link between Jagdalpur and Raipur/ Durg (M.P.)

2912. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a rail link between Jagdalpur (District Bastar) and Raipur/ Durg (M.P.) is being proposed;

(b) if so, how long will it take to make it operational; and

(c) if not, when will this proposal be considered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A line already exists between Raipur/Durg and Dallirajahara and construction of a new line between Dallirajahara and Jagdalpur (235 kms.) is a sanctioned work. As and when this new line comes up, the desired linkage between Jagdalpur and Raipur/ Durg will be established. The Dallirajahara-Jagdalpur New Line project is proposed to be carried out in two phases, viz., the 1st phase (Dallirajahara-Rowghat: 95 Kms.) and the 2nd phase (Rowghat-Jagdalpur: 140 kms.), and would be completed in the coming years as per the availability of resources. As per the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed, the full cost of the 1st phase work is to be borne solely by M/s Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL). As soon as M/s SAIL deposits the money with the Railways, actual work on the 1st phase will be taken up.

Rail Line between Solapur and Pakni

2913. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling the rail line between Solapur and Pakni, a stretch of about 16 kms. and creation of an additional terminus to relieve congestion of traffic at Solapur Station;

(b) if so, the details and cost thereof; and

(c) whether it is proposed to be included in the works programme for 1999-2000; if so, the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A survey for doubling of Bhigwan to Gulbarga section *via* Pakni and Solapur is presently in progress. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the results of the surveys become available.

Creation of additional terminal facilities at Solapur by remodelling of Solapur Yard as a part of gauge conversion of Solapur-Hotgi MG line has been taken up at a sactioned cost of Rs. 1296.26 lakhs. The scope of the work envisages the following.

(i) Lengthening of lines.
(ii) Additional island platform.
(iii) Extension of washing line.
(iv) Two spare stock lines.
(v) One Goods Line.
(vi) Two R & D lines.
(vii) 2 sick lines.
(viii) One goods unloading line.
(ix) Two shunting necks.

Work on gauge conversion of Solapur-Hotgi section has been completed and the section will be commissioned to traffic shortly.